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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 5th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KEMBER (New Zealand)

CONTENTS

REQUEST FOR HEARINGS

AGENDA ITEM 18: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (Territories not covered under other agenda items) (continued)

Hearing of petitioners

AGENDA ITEM 100: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)

Hearing of petitioners

AGENDA ITEM 18: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (Territories not covered under other agenda items) (continued)*

AGENDA ITEM 98: INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)*

AGENDA ITEM 99: ACTIVITIES OF THOSE FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH IMPEDE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (continued)*

AGENDA ITEM 100: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)*

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)*

AGENDA ITEM 101: OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES (continued)*

* Items considered together.

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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS (A/C.4/47/7/Add.1)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that he took it that the Committee wished to grant the request for a hearing relating to the question of New Caledonia, contained in document A/C.4/47/7/Add.1.

2. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 18: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (Territories not covered under other agenda items) (continued)

Question of New Caledonia

Hearing of petitioners (A/C.4/47/7 and 7/Add.1)

3. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Neaoutyine (Chairman of the Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste) took a place at the petitioners' table.

4. Mr. NEAOUTYINE (Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste (FLNKS)) said that he wished to underscore the importance for the Kanak people of the political and geopolitical changes that had taken place in the world in recent years, and of the proclamation by the United Nations both of 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and of 1993 as the International Year for the World's Indigenous People.

5. The United Nations commitment to stand on the side of the peoples struggling to achieve national sovereignty was an encouragement, and served to reinforce the repeated commitments by other international organizations which had reaffirmed the need to implement the Declaration on decolonization. Such reaffirmation was an indication of the persistence of the colonial system that many Powers still wanted to camouflage. France in particular was refusing to assume the obligations implicit in the fact that New Caledonia had once again been included in the list of colonial Territories, and its political and diplomatic initiatives sought to minimize the existence of the colonialism and to block the Kanak people's exercise of its right to independence and dignity. FLNKS was leading a struggle for the emancipation of the Kanak people who, in the course of 139 years of colonization, had resorted to almost every form of struggle. That long experience had taught it to count on its own strength. The Matignon Agreement of 1988 had laid down only minimal basic conditions and had not provided final solutions of the problems of New Caledonia.

(Mr. Neaoutyine)

6. The Rassemblement pour le Calédonie dans la République (RPCR) was maintaining its pro-French stand and the French Government was stubbornly insisting on considering the Kanak claims as a matter of internal policy. By signing the Matignon Agreement, FLNKS had given proof of its courage and responsibility, but had above all taken the chance that the issue would be handled intelligently.

7. The political, technical and financial mechanisms set up under the Agreement were extensive and the decentralization of administrations and responsibilities had made it possible to undertake a great deal in the past four years. Since in the light of the 1998 referendum the political objectives differed, the results were not the same. In the course of the 10-year period provided for in the Agreement, FLNKS was aiming to build an independent country, convince people that its struggle was justified, redress the various imbalances afflicting Caledonian society, and put in place the mechanisms for economic, financial and political independence. In North province and in the islands under their administration, the pro-independence leaders had launched indispensable large-scale public infrastructure and capital goods projects and put into effect policies to achieve those objectives. Many projects having to do with mineral prospecting, aquaculture, forest development, tourism or food crops had been started. In South province, administered by the right wing, one could not fail to note that greater Nouméa was being developed to the detriment of the other rural communes of the province because the RCPR economic interest groups were being backed by the authorities.

8. The political will of the Kanak movement was in sharp contrast to the wait-and-see attitude of the State and the conservatism of the local right wing, which formed the majority in the Congress. Four years after the 1988 Matignon Agreement, FLNKS was still waiting for reforms to be carried out in important fields (taxation, diversification of the economy, support for local development, the banking system, land tenure, social questions).

9. The land reform was still a priority and changes were necessary also in the housing area. FLNKS was demanding educational reform and better training of supervisory personnel and was recommending, in view of the alarming results, that greater attention be paid to the actual state of affairs in the country and to the general level of training.

10. FLNKS hoped that the unanimous support for the struggle it was leading would be echoed by the French authorities. A stronger commitment by the Government to work alongside the forces of progress would avert situations leading to a break. The point of view being proposed by FLNKS was the only viable one, especially since the most disadvantaged social strata had come to support the principle of the right to independence.

(Mr. Neaoutyine)

11. The resurgence in New Caledonia of the old demon of intolerance was a source of concern, and it was to be feared that if the right wing returned to power in France, the advances made in recent years would be undone. He called France's attention to its failure to meet its obligations and invited the Committee to be vigilant and to see to it especially that his country was kept on the list of those to be decolonized.

Mr. Neaoutyine withdrew.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Tidjine (Congrès Populaire Kanak) took a place at the petitioners' table.

12. Mr. TIDJINE (Congrès Populaire Kanak) described the present situation of the Kanak people, who remained foreigners in their own country. Despoiled of their lands, the Kanaks had been relegated to reservations, without a nationality, mere citizens with a status differing from common law status. Today, that people was claiming its sacred rights to freedom, dignity, self-determination and independence, as well as the return of its lands.

13. It was evident from the report of the Independent Commission of Inquiry that New Caledonia remained a colony. The French Socialist Party had not kept its promises to the Kanak people and the Matignon Agreement of 1988 did not lead to self-determination as, three years after its signing, not even a start had been made towards resolving the problems that had led to its signing. The Independent Commission of Inquiry considered French policy in New Caledonia contrary to international law and morality.

14. The Matignon Agreement was intended to maintain the French State's control of New Caledonia's wealth and the opening of the frontiers of the 12 European countries would consolidate that colonialist policy of integration.

15. Following a traditional ceremony, about a hundred French soldiers had interfered and had flouted Kanak customs. He denounced that colonialist intervention and the dissolution of the Traditional Advisory Council provided for in the Matignon Agreement and the obstacles the French Government was creating to the broadcasting of a programme recorded at Ouvéa, where 19 Kanak activists had been killed by the colonialist army.

16. That negative record had led to the decision to establish the Congrès Populaire Kanak. He enumerated the main goals of the Congrès, which included the renewal of the Kanak people's cultural identity, constructing a society on the basis of traditional structures and values, basing Kanak socialist independence on the cultural values of the Kanak people themselves and re-establishing its sovereignty over its natural resources.

17. The Congrès would ensure the unity of the Kanak people by abolishing all political labels and boycotting all elections. It would appoint an international expert to prepare a detailed claim for compensation of the

damages caused New Caledonia's patrimony for submission to the International Court of Justice. It requested the help of the United Nations for that purpose.

18. The general secretariat of the Congrès had four areas of work: the immediate accession of the Kanak people to sovereignty, protection of the lands, natural resources and the environment, foreign relations and communications and information.

19. Economic, social and cultural development and questions of education and security would be dealt with in the proposal for a new society to be modelled on Kanak traditional organization within a direct people's democracy. The first Congrès of the Kanak people had solemnly established the authority of the Kanak people in its country. Its representative asked all the Member States of the United Nations to recognize that people's sovereignty.

Mr. Tidjini withdrew.

AGENDA ITEM 100: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)

Hearing of petitioners (A/C.4/47/3)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Corbin took a seat at the petitioners' table.

20. Mr. CORBIN (Chairman, Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries) said that the purpose of the Working Group he headed was to increase the participation of non-independent Caribbean countries in programmes and activities of the United Nations system in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly since 1950. In 1987 the Working Group had begun its work by examining the compliance of the specialized agencies and technical organs of the United Nations system with the General Assembly's resolutions and provided the Special Committee and the Fourth Committee with a report on its activities annually. Those activities had been endorsed in resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and supported by the participants in the Decolonization Seminars held in Vanuatu and Barbados.

21. He welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session of resolution 46/70 entitled "Cooperation and coordination of specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations in their assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories", which referred to the work of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee and called on the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures for

(Mr. Corbin)

promoting and expanding cooperation and coordination among the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations in their assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories. As the Secretary-General was also asked to report to the General Assembly on the implementation of that resolution, the report to be submitted should prove useful to the Working Group.

22. One of the most recent developments of interest to the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee had been the regional Decolonization Seminar held in Grenada. The representative of Jamaica, who had represented the Committee, had reported on its activities in the area. In paragraph 31 of the Seminar's report, the participants had urged the Special Committee to seek the collaboration of the Working Group on its proposed comprehensive study on the access of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to programmes and activities of the United Nations system with the aim of identifying methods for increased participation by those Territories. The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee was indeed interested in developing a working relationship with the Special Committee in furtherance of the goal of increased participation by the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the activities of the United Nations system pursuant to General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions. In paragraph 33 of the same report, those two bodies were invited to support the inclusion in their resolutions of provisions to enable Non-Self-Governing Territories to participate in technical meetings in an observer capacity. In fact, members of the Working Group had been invited to participate in the Earth Summit as observers. In paragraph 34 of the report, it was proposed that the Special Committee should seek to identify and work to remove all obstacles to the full participation of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of all United Nations bodies.

23. The desire expressed by the Grenada Seminar participants for collaboration between the Special Committee and the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee would be brought to the latter Committee's attention at its fourteenth session, which was scheduled for December 1992.

Mr. Corbin withdrew.

24. Mr. CHOLMONDELEY (United Nations Development Programme) said that the seven Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean had a number of characteristics in common. They were stable democracies whose economies were tourism-based and which enjoyed relatively high standards of living; they were small island territories vulnerable to changes in the international economic environment as well as to natural disasters; their per capita incomes ranged from US$ 750 for the Turks and Caicos Islands to US$ 7,400 for the British Virgin Islands; their populations were small and the administering Power was their principal source of external capital and development assistance, other major donors showing little interest in the provision of concessional resources.

(Mr. Cholmondeley)

25. Over the period 1987-1991, support to those Territories by UNDP and other bodies of the United Nations system had amounted to just over US$ 5,000,000 and had focused on enhancement of national capacities through assistance in the following areas: reform of the public sector; human resource development with particular emphasis on education; and the services sector, in particular offshore financing.

26. For the period 1992-1996, allocations provided by agencies of the United Nations system, including UNDP, would also total just over US$ 5,000,000. During that period, UNDP programmes would support the Governments' efforts to reconcile growth, particularly in the tourism sector, with the avoidance of environmental degradation, to develop appropriate human resource development strategies with a view to improved performance in the education sector, upgrading of skills and improved management in the public sector, and to build up capacities to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters through integration of disaster response and prevention strategies in mainstream development funds.

27. Given the development of the territories' economic situation, only two of them would qualify for grant technical assistance from UNDP by 1996, the others being required to finance such assistance from their regular budgets, a pattern already established in the case of the Cayman Islands, the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba.

28. With regard to the issue of coordination, he said that UNDP was executing major programmes in New Caledonia, Tokelau, American Samoa and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. As those Territories were facing increasingly numerous and complex intersectoral, intrasectoral and transborder problems, the coordination established by UNDP resident representatives with other agencies of the United Nations system was therefore of great importance, especially in ensuring judicious utilization of limited resources. In conclusion, he said that cooperation between the Territories in such fields as disaster relief and the prevention of environmental degradation and the spread of AIDS was helping to promote coordination of activities.

29. The CHAIRMAN asked the representative of UNDP to specify what Territories of the Pacific would qualify for free technical assistance from UNDP in 1996.

30. Mr. CHOLMONDELEY (United Nations Development Programme) said that any Territory whose annual income exceeded $4,500 ceased to be eligible for UNDP assistance provided free of charge through the allocation of an Indicative Planning Figure. Before answering the question, he would have to check the economic projections relating to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. In any event, Territories could continue to receive other forms of assistance from other bodies of the United Nations system or even from UNDP under its regional or special programmes.

31. Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea) said that UNDP was to be commended for its efforts on behalf of Non-Self-Governing Territories and other developing countries. The additional information on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands which the UNDP representative had undertaken to supply was of particular interest to his delegation. The administering Powers, as Members of the United Nations, could apparently exercise a preponderant influence in connection with assistance requests relating to the administered Territories addressed to United Nations agencies. He asked the UNDP representative to indicate whether Territories could submit a request for assistance directly to UNDP.

32. Mr. CHOLMONDELEY (United Nations Development Programme) said that each of the Governments of island Non-Self-Governing Territories indicated to UNDP the name of the entity empowered to contact it. In the matter of technical assistance provided to the various Territories, UNDP officials therefore had no contacts with the administering Powers other than at meetings of the Economic and Social Council and of the Fourth Committee. So far as the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands was concerned, he would supply the information requested as soon as possible.

33. Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea) reiterated the view that the administering Powers were in a position to exercise some influence in the matter of technical assistance furnished to the Territories by UNDP, and asked whether the Territories could approach UNDP directly in the event of any disagreement with the administering Power.

34. Mr. CHOLMONDELEY (United Nations Development Programme) said that in the case of the Territories he knew - those of the Caribbean - UNDP always established contact directly with the Government of the Territory.

35. Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea) insistently requested that information supplied by agencies of the United Nations system should in future cover all the regions concerned.

AGENDA ITEM 18: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (continued) (A/47/23, Parts II to VI; A/47/225, 391 and 506; A/AC.109/L.1785; S/23362, S/24040, S/24464)

AGENDA ITEM 98: INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued) (A/47/120, A/47/204, A/47/473)

AGENDA ITEM 99: ACTIVITIES OF THOSE FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH IMPEDE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (continued) (A/AC.1/109/1097 to 1106, 1108 to 1113, 1116 to 1120, 1123 to 1125)

AGENDA ITEM 100: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (continued) (A/47/281 and Add.1)

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/47/3, chaps. I to V, sect. B, E/1992/85)

AGENDA ITEM 101: OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES (continued) (A/47/486)

36. Mr. SLABY (Czech and Slovak Federal Republic) drew attention to the persistent unwillingness of the Special Committee on decolonization to perform its work in a spirit that was in conformity with the new situation which had emerged on the international scene. Without orchestrated efforts by the whole of the international community it would be difficult to begin to identify a good many problems, let alone effectively to solve them. If the Committee failed to avoid ideological dispute, it would be unable to advance.

37. His delegation had deeply appreciated the efforts of the Chairman of the Special Committee on decolonization and had in particular subscribed to many of his suggestions, as well as proposing fresh solutions, aimed, for example, at merging the draft resolutions on economic interests and military activities. Unfortunately, neither those proposals, nor the proposals that the Committee should not address the question of apartheid, which came within the competence of other bodies, had not been accepted by certain States or groups of States.

38. With regard to the text of the draft resolutions submitted by the Committee to the General Assembly, it was hardly possible to speak of progress. Even in the case of omnibus resolutions, which were a significant innovation adopted at the forty-sixth session and which had to some extent become generalized, the text in some cases lacked the absolutely essential simple and concrete provisions. More specifically with regard to draft resolutions on foreign economic interests, military activities and the implementation by the specialized agencies of the Declaration on decolonization, their language, which had remained virtually unchanged, particularly with regard to development, was even less admissible than that of the drafts submitted at the forty-sixth session. Furthermore, by adopting such texts in spite of the negative votes of several delegations, including the Czechoslovak delegation, the Committee had disavowed its own decision contained in the report of the working group, in which it had undertaken to update the texts of the drafts. The only positive step was having avoided name-calling. The decision taken by the Fourth Committee at its forty-sixth session to reassess and partially update the texts of drafts prepared by the Special Committee was of the utmost importance.

39. His delegation considered that questions relating to the elimination of the last remnants of colonialism should remain on the agenda of the General

(Mr. Slaby, Czech and Slovak
Federal Republic)

Assembly until all the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories exercised their right to self-determination, in conformity with the provisions of the Declaration on decolonzation and with resolution 1541 (XV). To disregard reality was to court disaster.

40. Mr. KHERBI (Algeria) said that, while the United Nations could rightly be proud of the work it had thus far accomplished in furthering decolonization, its success should serve to reinforce its determination to eliminate the last vestiges of the colonial era, not to justify any premature relaxation of its efforts.

41. After briefly reviewing the question of Western Sahara since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 40/50 and recalling the provisions of Security Council resolutions 658 (1990) and 690 (1991) and General Assembly resolution 46/67, he noted that the clashes which had occurred in August 1991 had almost jeopardized the entry into force of the cease-fire of 6 September 1991, thereby complicating the work of the Identification Commission and hindering the implementation of the peace plan. The deployment of military observers from the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) had also not proceeded without difficulties. The organization of the referendum had been significantly delayed and had been complicated by the problem of identifying the eligible voters. Voter identification was extremely important as the fairness of the referendum depended upon it, and the credibility of the United Nations was also at stake. Settlement of the issue, which required effective cooperation between the two parties concerned, should be in accord with the letter and spirit of the settlement plan approved by the Security Council and the two parties. It should be implemented with all the vigilance, fairness and impartiality which true self-determination would require and should freely and exclusively express the will of the people of Western Sahara.

42. Mindful of those difficulties, his delegation based its position on the objective accounts and conclusions of observers and was guided above all by the desire to assist in the victory of reason, law and justice. It firmly believed that with legality, peace, security and stability throughout the Maghreb region at stake, it was imperative to eschew narrow points of view, unilateral initiatives and positions written in stone. The question of Western Sahara, which had been under discussion for the past 17 years, had resulted in too much fratricidal bloodletting, too many insults and discord between two partners, the Moroccans and the Saharans, who would seem to have been born to live as good neighbours in brotherhood and harmony. The two protagonists, and the subregion as a whole, had no interest in seeing the conflict continue. Therefore, the best approach would be to reach a just and lasting settlement - something inconceivable without strict adherence to the commitments which were the best security for a truly long-lasting solution. The Kingdom of Morocco and Frente POLISARIO had had the good fortune to profit from the sustained efforts of the entire international community; those efforts had culminated in a settlement formula which was sufficiently well thought out to ensure a measured agreement and a commitment worthy of respect.

(Mr. Kherbi, Algeria)

43. As the President of the Council of State, Mr. Ali Kafi, had reaffirmed on 20 September 1992, the question of Western Sahara remained one of the major obstacles to Maghreb unification. Without reservation or hesitation, his Government had always supported the peace plan elaborated by the United Nations in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity and with the approval of the two parties concerned - the Moroccan Government and the Frente POLISARIO leadership. It regretted that the plan had been thwarted and delayed, urged the United Nations to redouble its efforts in implementing the plan and called upon the Governments of sister States to refrain from actions which might slow the peace process still further. It remained firmly committed to the building of the Arab Maghreb Union. Only when an atmosphere of peace, stability and security was finally re-established for each member and for the subregion as a whole, could the Maghreb, in a spirit of fraternity and concord, and by maintaining cordial relations with neighbours and engaging in mutually beneficial cooperation, settle down to completing the historic process of unification to which the Maghreb States had committed themselves since the constitution of the Arab Maghreb Union. Algeria was convinced that a just and lasting settlement of the conflict in Western Sahara would be a decisive step forward in releasing the resources required to unify the Arab Maghreb and enable it to flourish.

44. Mr. TROUG (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that although some 60 countries had attained independence and sovereignty since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), the Palestinian people was still denied its right to live in its land in freedom and the South African people was under the domination of a racist minority.

45. Notwithstanding some progress, the situation in South Africa remained tense, and the regime continued to play the card of divisiveness in order to perpetuate domination by the white minority. Further, the involvement of the South African military and police apparatus in the violence that had recently shaken the country had now become apparent. In that connection his Government welcomed the deployment of United Nations observers in areas likely to experience further outbreaks of violence. It must be stated that the regime could not have maintained itself without the support of certain States that collaborated with it in military and nuclear matters and authorized their corporations to continue to invest in South Africa.

46. The General Assembly had adopted many resolutions condemning the exploitation of the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Yet transnational corporations continued to exploit such Territories ever more systematically causing ever greater damage to the interests of those Territories. Moreover, the end of the cold war had not prevented certain Powers from maintaining military bases in the Territories they administered. Most such bases occupied large expanses of agricultural land, thus hampering the agriculture development of the Territories in question.

(Mr. Troug, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

47. Recalling that Libya had suffered from colonialism and inherited huge minefields from the Second World War, he said that the international community should ensure that those formerly colonized were indemnified. Similarly, administering Powers were required to continue to provide the Secretary-General with all necessary information on Non-Self-Governing Territories and to abstain from dumping waste in such Territories.

48. Mr. LOTFI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that colonialism had not yet been fully eradicated, which was why the present Decade had been proclaimed the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Recent international developments had created a unique opportunity for the real implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

49. Regarding foreign economic interests, his delegation believed that while economic interactions could contribute to the development of Non-Self-Governing Territories and colonies, it was also true that some economic activities could impede rather than promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the peoples of such Territories. The latter were the rightful owners of the natural resources of dependent Territories, which must be developed in their interests and not those of the administering Powers. Moreover, certain military activities, including collaboration in the nuclear field with the racist South African regime and the establishment of military bases were in violation of the original mandates of the administering Powers. Moreover, notwithstanding some positive developments in South Africa, since January 1992 a reign of violence had been instituted, targeting black communities. In that connection his delegation welcomed the OAU decision to bring the question of violence in South Africa before the Security Council and the Security Council decision to deploy United Nations observers in South Africa. Lastly, his delegation supported the draft resolutions and decisions submitted to the Fourth Committee.

50. Mr. EVANS (United Kingdom) said that it was dispiriting to note that, despite the concerns expressed each year, the content of, and extreme language used in, the recommendations submitted by the Special Committee to the Fourth Committee were essentially copies of the previous year's. Further, it was totally incorrect to equate self-determination solely with independence and to forget that there were other options available. In that connection the guiding principle of the British Government's policy was that the wishes of the people living in dependent Territories were of primary importance. His Government took seriously its obligations under the Charter to develop self-government in dependent Territories and to act in cooperation with locally elected Governments to ensure that their constitutional frameworks continued to meet the wishes and aspirations of their peoples. The United Kingdom took a similar approach in responding to the economic needs of its dependent Territories. In that connection the draft resolution submitted to the Committee on the question of foreign economic interests was, once again, disappointing. The Special Committee must recognize the positive role of foreign investment, especially in small islands, which had limited capital and few natural resources.

(Mr. Evans, United Kingdom)

51. With regard to apartheid, he stressed that, following the independence of Namibia in 1990, the justification for the Fourth Committee to consider the question had been removed, since there was no link between the situation in South Africa and the interests of far-away Non-Self-Governing Territories. Similarly, the Special Committee had once again prepared a draft decision on military activities, an item that was not on the list of agenda items allocated to the Fourth Committee by the General Assembly. His delegation would thus vote against the draft resolution on foreign economic interests and the draft decision on military activities.

52. It should not be forgotten that the Special Committee was not the master of the Fourth Committee, but the other way around. The drafts submitted by the Special Committee illustrated only too well why three of the four administering Powers had withdrawn their cooperation. He proposed that some agenda items should be biennialized and that the Committee should work towards a merger of the Fourth Committee with the Special Political Committee, on the understanding that none of the items on their respective agendas need suffer.

53. Concerning the Falkland Islands, he stated that the United Kingdom would continue to work with the Government of Argentina to create an atmosphere of stability and cooperation in the South Atlantic, it being understood that sovereignty was not a matter that the United Kingdom was prepared to discuss.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.